

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION GUIDE
FOREST SLASH TREATMENT**

384

384 – STEP 1. INITIAL EVALUATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine the landowner's desire to reduce hazardous fuels, reduce the risk of insect infestation or disease, improve forage access, improve the soil organic matter, or improve the site for tree and grass regeneration in New Mexico. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service, Practice Standard 384).

The landowner must be interviewed to determine the purpose and desire for forest slash treatment. Some considerations will include the landowners intended use for reducing fire hazards, protect air quality by reducing fire risk, enhance aesthetics, improve wildlife habitat, reduce the risk of harm to humans and animals, and other pertinent reasons.

384 – STEP 2. INVESTIGATIONS, SURVEYS, AND INVENTORIES

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to identify all of the mandatory preliminary operations that are required before forest slash treatment can be planned. This will include identifying all needed utility clearances, archeological clearances if required, and identifying the proper USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle sheet and other needed maps.

384 – STEP 3. PRACTICE DESIGN

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to plan the forest slash treatment operation, identify the objectives, and develop a record of the completed actions taken.

All required deliverables for the design, installation, and compliance are found on the New Mexico Statement of Work. This document will be followed to successfully complete the project.

The local conditions will need to be assessed at the proposed site in order to identify any possible problems that may arise. This involves assessing the local landscape and topographic conditions and the local land uses, among other things. Forest slash must be appropriately treated to meet the local area expectations and must fall within the maximum height requirements. Slash and debris left on the site after treatment will not present and unacceptable fire, safety, environmental, or pest hazard. Such remaining material will not interfere with the intended purpose or other management activities. Erosion control must be implemented. All appropriate maps and reports must be reviewed with the landowner. An awareness of the types of equipment and materials used in the treating of forest slash, is essential, and a list of accepted materials must be provided to the landowner. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service Practice Standard 384, Practice Specification 384, and pertinent job sheets).

The landowner will need to provide the contractor with the appropriate standards, statement of work, job sheets and personal expectations.

384 – STEP 4. PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to document and describe the methods and materials used during the development of the forest slash treatment.

This will include the documentation of the equipment and tools which were used, techniques and methods used at each site, and recording the relevant information from each site on the approved specification sheets, statement of work, job sheets, technical notes and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

384 - STEP 5. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to assure the proper management and maintenance is completed at the job site. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service, Practice Standard 384, Practice Specification 384, and appropriate job sheets.

This requires a familiarity with the design and management objectives in order to minimize erosion potential and to maintain the site in a proper and safe fashion while meeting the objectives of the project. These measures should be discussed with the landowner.

The site should be monitored for the potential damage to the trees from insect and other harmful pests. If required, comply with Pest Management Practice Standard 595.

Access by vehicle or people will be controlled during treatments for safety purposes. Comply with Practice Standard Use Exclusion 472.

384 – STEP 6. COMPLIANCE OR SPOT CHECKING

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine that all work has been completed to the standards required by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

All completed NRCS forms should be collected from the landowner and submitted to the appropriate persons. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service Practice Standard 384, Practice Specification 384, Statement of Work (Forest Slash Treatment) and associated job sheets).

II. DOCUMENTS

Copies of all completed job sheets and associated work sheets should be submitted to the Natural Resources Conservation Service representative within 10 working days of completion of the project.